



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/790,097	03/02/2004	Kengo Takeda	KAW-316-USAP	1185
28892	7590	07/09/2007		
SNIDER & ASSOCIATES P. O. BOX 27613 WASHINGTON, DC 20038-7613			EXAMINER DUFFY, DAVID W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3714	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/09/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/790,097

Applicant(s)

TAKEDA, KENGO

Examiner

David W. Duffy

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/02/2005, 06/08/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "1413", "1513" and "1613" have been used to designate both a bill container and a bill stacker. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "1432" has been used to designate both a medal near-full sensor and a medal nearly-end sensor. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being

Art Unit: 3714

amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "1512" has been used to designate both a bill nearly-full sensor and a coin processor. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

5. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 1521, 1062 and 1065. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing

sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

6. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 1651. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

7. The disclosure is objected to because it is replete with translation errors. Corrections to the specification in proper idiomatic English and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52(a) and (b) is required.

Claim Objections

8. Claim 15 objected to because of the following informalities: the claim recites the limitations "the information managing apparatus" and "the wireless communication terminal unit". There is insufficient antecedent basis in the claim for these limitations. Examiner interprets that an information device and a wireless unit was intended. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10. Claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-12, 16 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Giobbi (US 2004/0029635).

11. In regards to claim 1, Giobbi discloses a gaming system having a wireless transceiver that receives information signals from a mobile data unit (abstract).

12. In regards to claim 2, Giobbi discloses a wireless communication terminal unit having a transceiver, where the transceiver sends information to a central server in response to a signal received from a mobile unit (abstract and par 22).

13. In regards to claim 5, Giobbi discloses receiving information signals transmitted from in front of the gaming machine (par 14).

Art Unit: 3714

14. In regards to claim 6, Giobbi discloses the use of IR as a transmission means (par 5).

15. In regards to claim 7, the wireless unit is connected to the gaming machine via wired connection (fig 2).

16. In regards to claim 8, Giobbi discloses that the wireless communication unit is linked to the host computer (par 22 and fig 2).

17. In regards to claim 9, Giobbi discloses an ATM that allows modification of player information (credits) that is associated with the gaming machine and therefore gaming establishment (par 25, 29).

18. In regards to claim 11, Giobbi discloses the exchanging of money on a terminal device (par 29-30).

19. In regards to claim 12, Giobbi discloses keeping the ATM in the same establishment as the gaming machine (par 43).

20. In regards to claim 16, Giobbi discloses the mobile device may be incorporated into a cellular phone (par 11).

21. In regards to claim 33, Giobbi discloses the ATM has a wireless communication means for communicating with a mobile device (par 30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

22. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

23. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giobbi in view of Oles et al. (US 6641484).

24. Giobbi discloses the system of claim 1 above, but seems to lack explicitly stating the use of a camera to monitor the facility.

25. In related prior art, Oles discloses a camera security system for gaming machines (1:53-62). One skilled in the art would recognize the advantages of having security cameras where they can easily identify patrons.

26. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time to include a camera with the system of Giobbi to provide security to the system.

27. Claims 4, 10, 13-15 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giobbi.

28. In regards to claim 4, Giobbi discloses the system as described above. Giobbi seems to lack explicitly stating that the communication system is attachable and detachable. However, module based communications is well known in the art of communications such as PCI or PC card based wireless systems and would have been an obvious modification to enable easy upgrades and replacement of broken parts.

29. In regards to claim 10, Giobbi discloses that the system is operable for a variety of game types (par 18), but seems to lack explicitly stating a game type with rented media. However, it would be obvious to use the system with pachinko, as that game would also benefit from the advantages of the current system.

30. In regards to claim 13, Giobbi discloses a wireless communication terminal unit having a transceiver that receives information signals from a mobile data unit, where the

Art Unit: 3714

transceiver sends information to a central server in response to a signal received from a mobile unit (abstract and par 22). Giobbi seems to lack explicitly stating that the communication device is attachable and detachable. However, module based communications is well known in the art of communications such as PCI or PC card based wireless systems and would have been an obvious modification to enable easy upgrades and replacement of broken parts.

31. In regards to claim 14, Giobbi discloses that the gaming machine is a slot machine (par 18).

32. In regards to claims 15 and 34, Giobbi discloses a gaming system with game machines connected via communications to a central information database and having wireless communication means that is responsive to a mobile unit and sends messages to the central server (par 14, 22 and fig 2). Giobbi seems to lack explicitly stating that the wireless communication means is detachable from the gaming machine. However, module based communications is well known in the art of communications such as PCI or PC card based wireless systems and would have been an obvious modification to enable easy upgrades and replacement of broken parts.

33. Claims 17-32 and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kweitko et al. (US 6383077).

34. In regards to claims 17-19, Kweitko discloses a system comprising casino games operable in response to coin insertion (3:5-9), a central system with a transceiver for wireless communications with floor staff via a mobile unit (3:38-60 and 4:4-16), where a notification is sent to the central server when money in a machine gets low (3:5-21), and

Art Unit: 3714

an alarm is sent to the mobile unit notifying the staff of the cash level (4:4-16). Kweitko lacks in explicitly stating that an image of the location of the device in need of repair is provided on the device. However, as the system already provides for the location of the device in text it would be an obvious modification well within the abilities of one skilled in the art to also include a map to the affected gaming machine to further aid the staff in finding and resolving service requests.

35. In regards to claim 20, Kweitko discloses that the mobile device may take the form of a general purpose pager (4:4-11) which is an early form of a full fledged PDA and therefore it would have been an obvious modification to include a newer more useful PDA with the system of Kweitko to give more tools to the support staff.

36. In regards to claim 21, Kweitko discloses that the game machines and the central controller are connected by wired or wireless link (3:5-13).

37. In regards to claim 22, Kweitko discloses the mobile device uses a low wattage transmission medium (4:8-10) and further discloses the use of infrared for communication with the gaming machines and central server (3:9-13). It would be an obvious modification well within the abilities of one skilled in the art to use infrared as the low wattage transmission medium.

38. In regards to claims 23-25, Kweitko discloses the systems use for slot machines, automatic gaming machines and other automated devices in the casino that interface with patrons (3:5-9). Accordingly, it would be obvious to apply the system to other gaming machines such as pachinko systems, and money changers for cash or

vouchers as all would benefit from the automated support system of Kweitko as suggested by Kweitko's inclusion of all casino support devices.

39. In regards to claim 26, Kweitko discloses that the location information of the device to be serviced is sent to the mobile device as a data packet (4:10-16).

40. In regards to claim 27, Kweitko seems to lack explicitly stating the storing of alarm data in order to display the information. However, local buffering of transmitted data is notoriously well known in communications and would have been an obvious modification to make in order to ensure that the support staff was able to retain the message in the event of signal loss.

41. In regards to claim 28, Kweitko discloses the system as described above with the generation of error messages such as low coin levels (3:14-21). Kweitko seems to lack stating the use of a game medium renting device with a bill full sensor and game medium empty sensor. However, Kweitko discloses that the system may be used for slot machines, automatic gaming machines and other automated devices in the casino that interface with patrons (3:5-9) and as such it would be obvious to use with a gaming medium renting machine in order to provide adequate service for the game operator's customers.

42. In regards to claim 29, Kweitko discloses the generation of error messages for low coin level in a gaming machine (3:14-21). Kweitko seems to lack explicitly stating that a money exchange machine would generate the messages with bill and coin low sensors. However Kweitko already states that the system may be used for slot machines, automatic gaming machines and other automated devices in the casino that

Art Unit: 3714

interface with patrons (3:5-9) and as such it would be obvious to use with an automated money changer in order to provide adequate service for the game operator's customers.

43. In regards to claim 30, Kweitko discloses the generation of error messages for low coin level in a gaming machine (3:14-21). Kweitko seems to lack explicitly stating the use on a prepaid card machine with a low card sensor. However Kweitko already states that the system may be used for slot machines, automatic gaming machines and other automated devices in the casino that interface with patrons (3:5-9) and as such it would be obvious to use with a prepaid card issue machine in order to provide adequate service for the game operator's customers.

44. In regards to claims 31-32, 35 and 36, Kweitko discloses a central controller with a transceiver that receives notification messages from gaming devices that enable wireless communication of messages to mobile devices held by support staff when coin supplies are low in a gaming machine and an alarm message is sent to the mobile device (3:5-21, 3:38-60 and 4:4-16). Kweitko seems to lack explicitly stating that the alarm message is an image. However, an image with text as described in the specification is an obvious modification over straight text and well within the abilities of one skilled in the art that would fail to distinguish over the prior art.

Conclusion

45. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 20060052169 A1 to Britt et al. directed to game monitoring. US 20030109308 A1 and US 20030060283 A1 to Rowe directed to casino systems monitoring. US 6962531 B2 to Pace et al. directed to casino automated service paging.

Art Unit: 3714

US 5496032 A to Okada directed to game hall monitoring. US 4254404 A to White directed to a service paging system. US 4531187 A to Uhland directed to game monitoring.

Applicant is duly reminded that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F. R. 1.111, including: "The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references. A general allegation that the claims "define a patentable invention" without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section. Moreover, "The prompt development of a clear Issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims." Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06 II(A), MPEP 2163.06 and MPEP 714.02. The "disclosure" includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

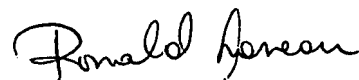
Art Unit: 3714

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David W. Duffy whose telephone number is (571) 272-1574. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 0800-1630.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DWD



RONALD LANEAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

7/6/07